



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Atlantic Coastal States Extend Spiny Dogfish Emergency Action *PID Development Fast Tracked for May 1, 2001 Fishing Year*

Arlington, Virginia – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission today extended its emergency action of August 22, 2000, maintaining closure of state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish when there is a closure in federal waters. The emergency action will be maintained for up to a year or until a Commission fishery management plan has been developed or the Board adopts another strategy.

The Board also committed to fast track the development of a Public Information Document (PID) to address possible alternate management actions for the fishing year beginning May 1, 2001. Within the next couple of months, the Board intends to finalize and seek public comment on the PID before it takes action on the document at its next meeting, scheduled for late April 2001. Specific options included in the PID are an extension of the emergency action for another year; adoption of actions as specified in the federal plan; and implementation of management measures based on a constant harvest strategy.

These actions, which were taken by the Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board, reflect the Board's continued concern for the status of the spiny dogfish resource and its desire to complement ongoing federal actions. The greatest concern is for the status of the adult female portion of the spiny dogfish population, which has been depleted, and has been the target of the directed commercial fishery.

Copies of the PID will be available in early March and can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org> under the Public Input page. For more information, please contact Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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